

[The Deep]

Beliefs and Customs — Folkstuff [Introduction?] Folk Stuff N. Y. '38

THE DEEP, BLACK, EMPTY TERRIBLE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD

[md;]

“— and you, fantasy Frank, and dreamworld Dora, and hallucination Harold, and delusion Dick, and nightmare Ned...

What is it, how do you say it, what does it mean, what's the word, that miracle thing; the thing that can't be so, quote, unquote, but just the same it's true..." 1 AM I RIGHT OR WRONG?

“Forget the answers that give no reason, forget the reasons that do not explain.”

(A thin man sits modestly on a bare park bench, one bony leg folded over the other, his veiny hands resting in his sunken lap. The long face is deeply lined but peaceful, the old shoes are seamy but polished, [?] the worn trousers are glossy but pressed. There isn't the faintest worry in the shrewd blue eyes.) 1 1 [LIVING FOLKLORE?] [?????] [?????????] [?????]

People ain't nacheral. Dey eat too much. Ye know, [?] yer stomach kin hold maybe a pint. De majority uh people cram a whole quart into it. What happens? Neuritis, [artaritis, neparitis?] artyaritis, nefaritis?] , colitis an' so forth. # Take de question uh sex. Majority uh people are sex poivoits. Ovuhdo it. Can't stay away from de wife. Got to adulterate her. Animals don't do dat, insects [neidere?]. It ain't nacheral. To kin sit near [?] a fire, ye don' have to lay right in it, do yuh? Ye kin smell poison, cancha, ye don' have to go ahead an' drink it. Ye kin drink water, ye don have to drown in it. Am I right or wrong?

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Mos' nacheral place in de woil' is de Caribbeans. Plenty a froot an yuh kin nevuh got constipated. [#? I wuz dere six yeahs ago. Before dat I wuz just an honest dope. Yuh know, work all a time, worryin and take everything serious. Well, suddenly I started in usin my eyes an I saw an awful lot, I'm tellin [?] [yur?] . # Fir instance, I discovered de less a guy works the more money he's makin. Aftuh a while, I started in workin less, see? I figgered - you know de way I figgered. But sumthin went wrong [.] wid de idea. De less I woiked de less I wuz makin. But I still figgered de same way. So I tried it again. I woiked less n less. An sure [?] enuff, I got less. Well, finally, I woiked less n less n less, and den I stopped altogether. I'm stubborn. You know. Once I got an idea, I don' let go. So I got fired. So I thought I'd blow de stink off and I goes down to de Caribbees. Dat wuz heaven....# Soons I can I'm [gonna go?] [goin'?] to work on dat problem again. [??] [Go an'?] find me anodder job an find out what wuz wrong wid my / system. Nacherally, so fars I [?] [kin?] see, [it's?] [persons wuz?] all right. [??]# But de mos' nacheral way of all is like de way I'm doin now. Not woikin at all. It's de most hygienic. [????] How does it striks yuh, am I right or wrong?